

Evening Telegraph

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MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1871.

THE PROPOSED COMMISSIONS.

This public indignation which has been excited by the infamous project to place the government of the city of Philadelphia in the hands of all-powerful and irresponsible commissions, will undoubtedly make itself heard at the meeting to be held at Horticultural Hall to-morrow evening. It is scarcely necessary for us to urge the solid men of Philadelphia to attend this meeting and to protest, by their presence at least, against the attempt that is being made to hand them over to the tender mercies of a gang of thieves—for such the commissions will undoubtedly prove to be if they ever get into operation. The people of this city are, we are thankful to believe, fully aroused to the importance of checking the conspiracy against their liberties in its incipency, and it will be their own fault if the Legislature is not made to understand that there are some outrages which will not be tamely submitted to. The importance of the meeting to-morrow evening is so well understood that it is almost superfluous for us to dwell upon it, but we will call the attention of the gentlemen who will speak upon the occasion to one or two points which are of more than ordinary importance.

The sixth section of the bill for the creation of the Board of Public Works is as follows:—"It shall be the duty of the Board of Public Works to cause the streets, lanes, and alleys laid out on the public plan to be opened, and such as they may deem necessary for the public use to take possession of, and to cause the same to be paved, curbed, and, when necessary, culverted; Provided, That it shall not be lawful for the said board to take possession of any street, road, avenue, or highway until they have given or tendered to the owners of property fronting on the streets, roads, and highways opened or about to be opened, the bond of the city of Philadelphia, to be executed by the President of said board, attested by the clerk thereof, and the seal of the said board, conditioned for the payment of such damages as the owners of said property may be awarded by a jury drawn under the existing laws relating to opening streets and assessing damages thereon; and for that purpose the Board of Public Works is hereby authorized to issue the bond of the city of Philadelphia, executed as aforesaid."

It will be seen that this makes it obligatory upon the commissioners to cause all the streets, lanes, and alleys on the city plan to be opened, paved, curbed, and, when necessary, to be culverted. We would like to know how many of the citizens of Philadelphia have any adequate idea of the magnitude of the task thus entrusted to the half-dozen gentlemen named as Commissioners of Public Works? The city plan covers the whole county of Philadelphia, and all the streets are laid out upon it in order that trouble and confusion may be avoided in the future when the streets come to be opened. If the streets are not laid down, any person who may build a house in the rural districts, which it may be necessary hereafter to remove to make way for a street, will be able to obtain damages. If the streets are laid down, however, it is his duty to build his house upon the line of a street, and he will place it elsewhere at his own risk. By far the larger portion of the county of Philadelphia consists of farm lands, which will not in the ordinary course of events be cut by streets for many years to come; and yet this bill makes it the duty of the commissioners to set to work and open streets to an indefinite extent in every direction.

There are now about 900 miles of streets, alleys, and lanes open for travel. Some of these thoroughfares are paved, curbed, and culverted, and others are not, and probably will not be for some time to come. When we say that the number of miles of streets already opened do not equal one-fifth of the number upon the city plan, we are very far within the mark. It may be safely asserted that 50,000 miles of streets are yet to be opened, paved, curbed, guttered, and culverted. This is a fact that speaks for itself, and does not require comment.

Previous to the last election in New York there were 20,000 men upon the city pay-rolls, every one of whom, as a matter of course, voted the straight Tweed ticket. With 50,000 miles of streets to be opened in this city, our Commissioners of Public Works will have opportunities that will make Tweed think New York but a poor place to operate in after all. Leaving out of consideration the magnificent opportunities for absolutely unrestrained plunder, the Commissioners of Public Works can have 100,000 men upon the city pay-rolls at the next election, and can consequently elect any ticket they may choose to put up. Some of our readers may imagine that this is an exaggeration, but we can assure those who are inclined to take a roseate view of the situation that the men for whose special benefit it is proposed to create these commissions will take care to colonize every ward in this city to a sufficient extent to carry the elections, even if it should be necessary to have 500,000 men in their pay in order to accomplish their ends and perpetuate their power. Let the commission bills pass the Legislature and receive the assent of the Governor, and the citizens of Philadelphia will have absolutely no relief except by revolution.

LEGISLATIVE LABOR.—The law-makers of New York are very industrious this season, and have made such good progress that the World, in an Albany despatch, shows how they have "accomplished considerable work,"

by means of a comparison with the result of their labors up to a corresponding date last year. The number of bills introduced in the House of Representatives has increased from 961 to 993, the number reported from 552 to 587, and the number passed from 180 to 225; the only decrease being in the item of bills ordered to third reading, which was 275 in 1870 and 270 in 1871. It would be interesting to know how many of these 225 bills which have passed the House already embrace subjects of legitimate and necessary legislation. Certainly, not a tithe of them. But, then, Albany is worse than Harrisburg. Boss Tweed runs the whole legislative business in New York, and runs it systematically and without a semblance of opposition, while in this State his imitators are merely setting themselves about the task of introducing all the Tammany improvements.

A TURNING-POINT IN NATIONAL POLITICS.

In the whirligigs of American politics epochs occasionally occur when the fate of parties depends upon comparatively trifling events, and the tide of battle is turned in one direction or another by the incidents and accidents of the hour. There are many indications that one of these epochs has now arrived, and that the continued ascendancy of Republicanism is seriously threatened. General Grant's administration, from which so much was hoped, is rapidly declining in popularity; and while it is manifest that there will be a powerful opposition to his re-nomination, serious fears have been awakened that, as matters are now progressing, a Democrat will succeed him in the Presidential chair. We refer to these conjectures not for the purpose of making captious complaints, but to indicate to all whom it may concern the plain drift of public sentiment, so that timely precautions may, if possible, be yet taken to maintain the rule of the party which has rendered such mighty service to the country. The old feeling of antagonism to the Rebellion no longer furnishes an irresistible source of partisan strength, and the course of the administration in appointing some of the most notorious Rebels to important offices indicates that it does not even wish its adherents to relight the camp-fires of the war. Of the Republican politicians, a very considerable number have been alienated, not merely by the disappointment of their aspirations for office (for this was inevitable), but by what they deem contemptuous treatment, undue preference to relatives and personal friends, and disregard of the usages of official circles. All these feelings have been intensified by the recent demonstration against Senator Sumner. However important his displacement from a Senatorial committee may be in itself, it will consolidate and quicken the opposition within the Republican ranks to the administration, and intensify the perils arising from the division of a party against itself.

But no matter what the politicians may think or do, the administration might still be a tower of strength if it was entrenched in the hearts of the American people. Its chief attempts to secure their regard, however, so far as they have been developed, are based on two measures—the rapid extinction of the public debt and the acquisition of San Domingo. We fear, however, that more votes will be lost than won by this programme. However anxious the American people are to maintain the national credit, they are inexorably opposed to the infliction of unnecessary burdens upon a generation which has already undergone so much privation and suffered so many extortions. The rich men resent keenly the continuation of the odious, unequal, unjust, and oppressive income tax, and the poor men of the present day ask why they should be loaded down with taxes which produce revenues far in excess of the essential requirements of the National Treasury. It is a grand thing to enforce the laws and to collect the taxes faithfully, but from time immemorial, and in all nations, no matter what might be their form of government, the imposition of useless taxes has ever been a sure road to unpopularity. At this moment the contraction of the currency also greatly increases the inconveniences and sufferings arising from onerous taxation; and while the people see hundreds of millions hoarded up in the National Treasury or stored away in the vaults of the dealers in gold and silver coinage, the scarcity of a circulating medium for their personal use increases and adds to their troubles in meeting business engagements and in satisfying the incessant demands of national and local tax-gatherers. Persistence in this policy can have but one end—the ruin of any party that upholds it.

It is reported that one reason why the scheme for annexing San Domingo is so earnestly pressed is a belief that this acquisition will add strength to the Republican party, and become to it what the annexation of Texas was to the Democracy in 1844. If we do not mistake the signs of the times, however, the thirst for territorial acquisitions is rapidly becoming an abandoned folly; and San Domingo, regarding it in its best aspect, is too unimportant to awaken national enthusiasm. Franklin Pierce did not win a vote by his purchase of a barren strip of territory on the northern frontier of Mexico; Andrew Johnson did not gain a partisan by purchasing Alaska; and while Grant has already lost some useful friends by his anxiety to acquire San Domingo, it remains to be seen how new Republican recruits are to be gained by the Presidential predilection for that acquisition.

If the Republican party is to retain power, its leaders must cease to waste their energies in family quarrels; due regard must be paid to the interests of the loyal and long-suffering tax-payers of the North; industry must be encouraged and business stimulated, instead of being depressed; and fanciful theories or ambitious schemes for an enlargement of territorial sway must be supplanted by an anxious desire to render the greatest possible assistance and relief to a patient and patriotic people.

MR. E. L. DAVENPORT.

THE DRAMA, more than any other form of art, appeals directly to the tastes and sympathies of all classes in the community, cultured as well as uncultured. A picture or a statue can never inspire the same powerful emotions that a great tragedy does, if it is adequately represented, and if the effects of the drama are more evanescent than those of the other arts, they are at the same time more vivid and impressive for the time being, and are understood and appreciated by a much larger number of persons. The importance of the drama, therefore, merely considered as a moral agent, and without regard to its influence on general culture, cannot be overestimated, and any intelligent and conscientious effort to raise the standard of dramatic art is worthy of the most cordial encouragement. The success of the Chesnut Street Theatre under its present management is a matter in which the general public are largely interested, for if Mr. Davenport does achieve a permanent success in the line which he has marked out for himself, the benefits will not accrue merely to a comparatively small number of habitual playgoers, but will extend themselves to an indefinite extent through society at large.

Mr. Davenport has for many years been acknowledged by the most competent judges as the most accomplished actor upon the American stage. He does not equal Mr. Forrest in the grandeur which make some portions of that gentleman's performances unapproachable; he does not equal Mr. Booth in his faculty for inventing new and attractive stage-business, or in his exquisite taste in costume, and he may fall below other actors in some special points. There is no performer upon the American stage, however, who is so thoroughly an artist in all the essentials of his art, or who can approach him in his wonderful versatility. Mr. Forrest and Mr. Booth cannot play comedy at all, and Mr. Murdoch, who is a most delightful comedian, is more of an electioneer than an actor when he attempts tragedy; but Mr. Davenport can play tragedy and comedy, melodrama and farce, in all varieties, with equal facility, and that his tragedy is up to the highest mark of high art his recent performance of the part of "Sir Giles Overreach" has sufficiently demonstrated. Mr. Davenport is not only a great actor, but he is a gentleman of unblemished reputation, and the assurance which he made at the beginning of his season at the Chesnut, that no immoral performances will be given under his management, will most undoubtedly be kept; and if the support of the public is what it should be, plays of the highest class will alone be produced. Mr. Davenport has already accomplished the heaviest portion of his task in removing the prejudices which a number of seasons of bad management had excited against the Chesnut Street Theatre, and although he commenced his career as a manager under a variety of disadvantages, he has achieved a success that is as gratifying as it was unexpected to even his warmest admirers. If Mr. Davenport has health and strength to go on with his work, the future of the Chesnut Street Theatre cannot be doubtful, and the citizens of Philadelphia will not only have cause for congratulation in the fact that the standard drama will have a permanent home here, but that the most beautiful of our theatres will be presided over by the most accomplished of American actors.

THE BLUNTNESS OF BLUNT is a thing beautiful to behold. The New York Tribune accused him of stealing \$126,000 out of \$290,000 paid nominally to the Indians; whereupon Mr. James G. Blunt writes a letter demanding a correction, and asserting that the amount paid the Indians in question was \$349,742, out of which Blunt was paid by the Indians, "as per contract," the sum of \$148,836.80. This accomplished thief so glories in his rascality that he is even anxious to claim credit for a larger share of plunder that is laid at his door. But he professes to regard the "transaction" as one that "has been closed, and is among the things of the past." It is, perhaps, useless to attempt a reopening of it; but it is worth the while of President Grant to see to it that Blunt's disposition to "continue to prosecute business for Indians and others" is materially obstructed. Under the new powers recently conferred upon the Board of Indian Commissioners, Blunt will doubtless find 42 per cent, "as per contract," a little more difficult to realize than in the past. But it will be worth while to watch him, and for everybody to watch him, and the whole horde of border thieves of which he is merely a fair sample.

THE SENSE OF PROPRIETY exhibited occasionally by the anti-obstructionists is commendable. Having an eye to the best market, they have established the depot for supplying copies of the petition to the Legislature for nullifying the vote of last October, at No. 127 S. Seventh street. This is within a stone's throw of Washington Square, and, to say the least, is quite handy for property-owners in that locality. If the depot had been established further up town, it would not have been so very convenient to the only class who are interested in keeping the intersection clear.

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION. To-morrow the spring campaign is opened and the election for State officers and Congressmen in New Hampshire. The following are the names of the candidates:—

- FOR GOVERNOR. Republican, James Pike. Democratic, James A. Weston. L. P. Cooper (Lab. Ref.) FOR RAILROAD COMMISSIONERS. Wm. H. Grove (Lab. Ref.) David Gilchrist. FOR CONGRESS. 1.—Wm. B. Small. E. A. Hubbard (L. R.) 2.—Aaron F. Stevens. Samuel N. Bell. Wm. H. Grove (Lab. Ref.) 3.—Simon G. Grimm. James W. Parker. E. D. Baker (Lab. Ref.) An effort was made to secure an endorsement of the Democratic ticket by the Labor Reformers, but it failed, and they made separate nominations, except in the First Congressional district.

The nomination of the Rev. James Pike for Governor, by the Republicans, satisfied the Temperance wing of the party, and they have not entered the contest with a ticket of their own. Mr. Pike, the Republican candidate for Governor, is a prominent Methodist clergyman who has been in political life heretofore, having represented the First district in Congress from 1855 to 1859. Mr. Weston, the Democratic candidate for Governor, is at present Mayor of Manchester, and is a gentleman of ability and great popularity. Mr. Cooper, the Labor Reform candidate for Governor, is an old politician who was formerly allied to the Republican organization. The delegation in the Forty-first Congress was all Republican, but the only old member re-nominated is General Aaron F. Stevens, one of the ablest members of the last House. The vote of the State since 1860 has been as follows, the votes marked thus (*) including all scattering votes. In 1863 there were two Republican candidates for Governor, and, as the Constitution requires a majority of all the votes cast to elect, there was no election by the people:—

Table with 4 columns: Year, Rep., Dem., Rep. Maj. 1860—Governor..... 39,227 23,544 4493 1861— "..... 37,519 28,404* 1115 1861—Governor..... 35,467 31,492 4015 1862— "..... 32,862 30,275* 1875 1863— "..... 33,407* 25,512 774 1864— "..... 37,006 31,840 5666 1865— "..... 36,095 32,034 3661 1865—Governor..... 34,145 25,074* 6071 1866— "..... 35,137 30,481 4656 1867— "..... 35,809 30,663 3146 1868— "..... 39,785 37,992* 2493 1869— "..... 38,191 31,224 6967 1869—Governor..... 35,771 33,004 3773 1870— "..... 34,912 32,569* 1353

In 1870 there were four candidates for Governor, the Democratic receiving 25,033, the Labor Reform 7369, and the Temperance 1167, giving the Republican candidate a plurality of 9880, and a majority over all opposition of 1353. The Labor Reformers this year will doubtless poll as heavy a vote as last year, but the State is regarded as safely Republican by at least 15000 majority. The vote for Congressmen in 1869 was as follows:—

Table with 4 columns: First District, Rep., Dem., Rep. Maj. 1869— "..... 11,198 11,376 172 1869— "..... 11,613 9,561 1647 1869— "..... 11,254 10,091 586

The only district about which there has been any doubt is the Second, but it has at last been conceded that General Stevens will be successful, and that the delegation will remain a Republican unit in the Forty-second Congress.

NOTICES. WANAMAKER & BROWN, MERCHANT CLOTHIERS, OAK HALL, SIXTH AND MARKET STREETS. CLOTHING. SPRING CLOTHING.—Immense stock—Best materials, best styles, best workmanship, and lowest prices. AT WANAMAKER & BROWN'S. CLOTHING. SPRING OVERCOATS, in Meltons, Tweeds, Silk Mixtures, Tritons, and Water-proofs, all the newest colorings and mixtures, from \$6 to \$25 the coat. AT WANAMAKER & BROWN'S. CLOTHING. SPRING SUITS, both business and dress, for all occasions and occupations, every variety of style and material, from \$10 to \$40 the suit. AT WANAMAKER & BROWN'S. CLOTHING. BOYS' and YOUTHS' SUITS, for all ages, all the favorite designs and most fashionable fabrics, from \$5 to \$15 the suit. AT WANAMAKER & BROWN'S. CLOTHING. ORDERS BY MAIL attended to with care and punctuality. The easy and accurate SYSTEM OF SELF-MEASURE, introduced by WANAMAKER & BROWN, enables them to guarantee a perfect fit. CLOTHING. Rules for Self-measure, Patterns of Goods, Price List, with directions for ORDERING BY MAIL, sent free on application. WANAMAKER & BROWN'S.—The largest establishment in Philadelphia. OAK HALL, S. E. COR. SIXTH AND MARKET STREETS.

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INSURANCE. ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL Life Insurance Company OF THE United States of America. For the Year Ending Dec. 31, 1870.

Net Assets, January 1, 1870, \$1,294,482-40 RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR. Premiums on Policies..... \$640,989-13 Extra, etc..... 1,513-73 Interest..... 86,885-00 \$729,388-86 DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR. Claims by Death and Annuity..... \$105,843-30 Surrendered Policies..... 19,673-65 Reinsurance..... 17,080-40 Taxes..... 10,941-19 Expenses..... 218,807-33 \$372,555-87 increase in Net Assets during the year, \$356,832-99 \$1,651,315-79

ASSETS, JANUARY 1, 1871. Cash on hand and in bank..... \$59,707-74 U. S. Bonds (cont.)..... 402,597-60 Virginia State 6s (cont.)..... 16,747-96 Dominion of Canada 6s (cont.)..... 64,875-93 Loans on First Mortgages on Real Estate..... 339,866-70 Loans on Bonds and Stocks..... 28,532-70 (worth \$92,900)..... 591,000-00 Loans on other securities..... 28,532-70 Office Furniture and all other property..... 10,457-16 \$1,092,907-49

Present Value of Reinsured Policies..... \$16,800-00 Premiums Deferred (Semi-annually and Quarterly)..... 94,413-00 Premiums in Course of Collection..... 38,965-00 Market Value of Investments in excess of Cost..... 17,877-74 Interest accrued..... 11,254-00 \$173,297-74

Gross Assets, January 1, 1871..... \$1,146,599-38 Number of Policies in force, January 1, 1871..... 7,259 Amount of Policies in force, January 1, 1871..... \$13,43,637-00

The Annual Statement, as given above, shows that this Company has accumulated, during the twenty-nine months of its existence, the sum of \$765,597-23, Which, with the Capital Stock of \$1,000,000,

Makes a total amount of available and valuable Assets of ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SEVEN 23-100 DOLLARS, the whole of which is held safely and profitably invested for the security of its Policy-Holders. A valuation of the Policies in force on the first day of January, 1871, made by the most rigid method, and upon the same standard as to interest and Mortality as that upon which its Premiums are based, shows that the full present value, or amount required to safely reinsure its risks on that date, was \$907,323.

A careful examination of the above figures, and of the character of the Assets, gives conclusive evidence that the NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA affords to its Policy-Holders that which is the most desirable in any Life Insurance Company, namely, abundant security. The ratio of Assets to Liabilities is over 200 per cent; that is, the Company has more than 200 for each \$100 of liability. \$1000 \$1000 \$1000 CLARENCE H. CLARK, President. E. A. ROLLINS, Vice-President. EMERSON W. PEET, Secretary. JAY COOKE, Chairman of Executive and Finance Committee.

CREAT SALE OF OIL PAINTINGS. HUGH A. McCANN Will sell at public sale his entire collection of Foreign and American Oil Paintings, AT No. 910 CHESNUT STREET, Preparatory to making extensive alterations in his store. On THURSDAY and FRIDAY, March 16 and 17, Commencing at 7 1/2 o'clock. NOW ON FREE EXHIBITION. 3 1/2 1/2 P. B. SCOTT, Jr., Auctioneer.

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ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE ASSURY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1870. RECEIPTS. Premiums..... \$196,143-51 Interest and other items..... 11,995-99 \$208,144-50 EXPENDITURES. Paid claims by death..... \$32,969-06 " surrendered and lapsed policies..... 6,504-97 " dividends to policy-holders..... 1,977-47 " interest on stock..... 10,276-44 " taxes..... 3,551-74 " reinsurance..... 3,500-16 General expenses, including rents, officers' salaries, advertising, books, stationery, etc..... 50,577-98 Agency expenses, including commissions, salaries, rents, and all other expenses..... 73,700-66 \$180,296-68

ASSETS. United States 6 per cent. Bonds..... \$159,671-91 Cash on hand and in bank..... 13,685-74 Loans on policies in force..... 53,148-05 Deferred premiums for the year..... 42,933-91 Premiums in hands of agents and in course of collection..... 59,478-24 All other assets..... 20,817-24 \$347,685-10

LIABILITIES. Due for losses by death..... \$17,064-47 " all other claims..... 1,562-92 \$18,627-39 SUMMARY. Assets..... \$347,685-10 Liabilities..... 18,927-29 Capital and Reserve Fund..... \$328,757-81 JAMES M. LONGACRE, Manager for Pennsylvania and Delaware, 3 6 m w f w No. 302 WALNUT ST., Philada.

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